

# A Helpful Page for Practical Housekeepers.

## ENTERTAINING A LOST ART

It Has Been Replaced By the Art of Being Amused, the Right to Be Rude, and the Necessity of Going To and Fro in the Earth.

A brilliant and witty woman writer, a society woman as well, has set down as a gathered-in result of her recently made observations, that women nowadays have lost the art of entertaining or of being entertained; they have replaced it with the art of amusing and being amused.

Perhaps, herein is to be found the reason why the art of conversation has taken its flight along with the art of entertaining and why people who now sit down for a rational interchange of ideas are relegated to the dim shades of boredom, classified as such "antiquated old fossils, my dear, only fit for the companionship of the Noah family, and the ark menagerie." Just joined unto their idols, so that they have to let alone, I tell you. If they make any demands in your direction, better be a Levite and pass by on the other side. If you wish to escape with your life.

Perhaps our author's truism affords a clue to the cause of there being left no place in the world of the twentieth century for a plain, practical common-sense specimen of humanity. Everything moves along such extraordinary lines; life demands of each person and each thing that he, she or it must be brilliant, or clever, or unique, or social, or philanthropic, or anarchistic, or very learned, or extremely rich, or plebeian, or poor in order to have place or room for existence.

Life no longer has need for the ordinary, good, kind, sensible souls who have hitherto plodded their way unmolested along the world's highway. Their homely, old-fashioned graces are sadly out of touch with the following apt description, to be verified by many of those who are now anticipating the rush of an approaching season in these words:

"Sauces and insincerity,  
Clatter of tongues and spoons;  
Gossip mixed with asperity,  
Atmosphere fit for swains.

"More, if the swift dexterity  
Born of the clown be thine—  
This is what you see at a o'clock tea,  
Served at a social shrine."

Perhaps with such lights before us we should comprehend, better than we sometimes do, why politeness at this fine point of civilization finds a place only in large department stores, politeness being a handmaiden formerly of everyday life and association, so that it is in no wise novel or refreshing.

Rudeness, on the contrary, is very diverting to those who practice it. Besides, it is a sign-manual of progressiveness and development of mind. It testifies to the swing away from old prejudices, the breaking down of old conventionalities; it shows the length, the breadth, the height and the depth of expansive views.

Rudeness is a precious privilege which modernity purchases at "How!" it cries, "shall I, who have the wherewithal to buy my freedom, be constrained within the narrow limits of courtesy? Shall I be troubled by prudish consideration; I, to whom gold has given the right to utter untrammelled, to be as broad, if I so will it, as the Pacific Ocean?"

The necessity of being amused and of amusing others, and women to go to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it, that they may possibly see or hear some new thing each day, each hour and each moment of time.

There are no longer any homes or any keepers to abide in them. Luxurious places of residence have been turned into kindred for a few days in winter, or million dollar cottages beside the sounding sea are thrown wide open for summer guests in the height of a season.

But, lest the days become monotonous and pall upon the taste of the hundred and other number must be spent shopping in the city, or yachting in the Mediterranean, traveling for a few weeks in Egypt, Palestine or Algiers, lunching in the shadow of the Great Pyramid, going out camel-back into the Desert of Sahara to watch the moon rise, stopping for Holy Week in Rome, gambling at Monte Carlo, climbing Swiss mountains, or exploring Norwegian fjords.

So much for European and trans-Atlantic excursions. In this Western Hemisphere it is considered good form to give private car parties, to take a drive to the beach, or to the West Indies, the Bermudas or Mexico.

Southern California is found still to have some unexplored nooks, where one may pick up a sensation or be brought face to face with the unexpected. The line of a thoroughly known and understood variety, and there is still something novel in going to watering places in the Alaskan Rockies and taking one's breakfast there at a o'clock in the morning, as a radical change in the wonted routine of habit.

The latest fad has been the establishment of hosteleries in the Philippines for tourists, where a wide field of exploration has been offered, the fascinating uniqueness in Philippine personality and language engaging some brief notice and attention at least.

And so the quest goes on—never ending, ever beginning afresh, ever echoing back the cry uttered centuries ago by a king who, after having run the whole gamut of human experience, and after having the fruit of the tree of knowledge turn to ashes on his lips, said: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, for I have sought but found nothing new under the sun."

### Gorgeous Decorations.

October is a lavish colorist and table and dining-room decorations are frequently in gorgeous accord with the season. Russet autumn leaves and dark reds blend beautifully and are in very popular demand this October.

The social autumn meetings of the patriotic societies are signalized by the fact of the hostess, who places on her table a goldenrod and white light-blue ribbon sash when the Colonial Dames sit at her board; by the scarlet of salvia and the blue of violets for the Daughters of the American Revolution; by the red of rose and the spicy whiteness of carnations that she chooses, when the

women of the Confederacy are to be entertained.

At this season dinner parties and luncheons, even those given for the debutantes, who are specially interested in Hallowe'en, are sure to have some Horse Show reminders in the shape of floral horseshoes, or place cards with the heads of equine favorites or daring equestriennes painted on them in delicate water colors.

Theatre-parties, given after the per-



### COQUETTISH MILLINERY STYLES.

The first glance at millinery of the fall leads one to believe that there are hats only for young faces. So coquettish in outline and style of trimming are many of the hats, that one wonders where mature women are to find their headgear. It is, however, a painful truth that Dame Fashion take little account of maturity. So many of the round saucer shaped hats are being shown, and this style is so essentially favored that it will be a weary round for one in search of a demure style. Velvet hats are the chief favorite. It is quite the exception to find a hat that has not some velvet in its make-up. It is no longer a case of covering hats plainly with velvet, but they are made of pleated, shirred and tufted velvet as well. An effective model is one of the round saucer shaped hats made entirely of shirred puffs of velvet combined with silk folds. These silk folds outline the edge of the brim, pass once around between the edge and the crown and encircle the round crown midway between the top and base. This makes up a hat which is sufficiently ornate to require little or no trimming, save, perhaps, some tips of ostrich which are placed on the back brim.



### Woman's Mission.

Though she may not in the battle bravely lend men to the aid—  
Though she may not wield the saber  
For the right against the might;  
She can hover near the bedside  
Where the wounded soldier lies—  
She can cheer his dying moments,  
Watch beside him till he dies.

Though she may not guide the voyage  
Of the nation's ship of state—  
Steer it from the rocks and breakers  
Where its foes in ambush wait;  
She may wield a mightier influence  
Over those who rule the land;  
She may be the silent power  
That shall nerve the statesman's hand.

Though she may not, in the councils  
Of the nation, raise her voice—  
Though she may not, by the ballots,  
Be proclaimed the people's choice—  
She can teach the little children  
To be brave and firm and true,  
True to manhood, God and country;  
More than this no man can do.

Though she may not, from the pulpit,  
Speak the words of truth and love,  
Warning men of death and judgment,  
Pointing them to God above,  
She can speak to some poor sinner—  
Tell him Christ for him was given—  
She may, by some kind word spoken,  
Win a soul for God and heaven.

In the battle, in the pulpit,  
In the council of the land,  
On Fame's high and dizzy summit,  
Woman's form may never stand;  
But more holy in her mission—  
Noblest work that God has given!  
Hers to lift with hands so tender,  
Our poor world up nearer heaven.

### Sweet Lavender.

A pretty idea, to be followed out in a boudoir, is to have the drawers of the dressing-table lined with quilted silk, between the folds of which sweet lavender flowers have been carefully tucked. Sofa pillows, filled with lavender, dried rose, geranium leaves, powdery and balsam, will render a downy boudoir couch a refreshing and delightful place of rest. Powdered orris root in the colored silk lining for the drawers will diffuse a fresh and wholesome fragrance. After the hands have been properly

performance, or dinners preceding it, are much in favor. Souvenirs embellished with the heads of noted women of the stage are appropriate for these affairs, where it is considered the correct thing to have the floral adornment very simple.

### Ye Three Dishes.

Place three dishes in a row, in one place clear water. At the second muddy, leave the third empty. If the girl who would try her fate, move the dishes about so she cannot tell which is which, then let her put her hand into a dish. The empty dish means no husband, the clear water a good husband, and the muddy a bad one.

### Ye Three Nuts.

Place three nuts on the bars of the grate, naming the nuts after one's lovers. If the nut cracks or jumps, the lover will be unfaithful; if it begins to blaze or burn, he has a regard for the girl; if the nut named for the girl and her lover burn together brightly, it will be a happy marriage.—October Number of What-to-Eat.

## How Your Sewing Should Be Done

In every well regulated household there is a sewing room, where the practical needs of children and grown people are looked after, and where the proper sewing on of buttons, pressing, darning, cutting out and sewing together become affairs of great moment and importance. It is necessary for the woman who takes her seat in the sewing room and draws her well filled "mending basket" forward, to remember these rules which say:

### When Sewing—

On buttons, sew through and through the button until the hole is full of thread, then wrap the thread around the button three times, put the thread through the wrong side, and fasten well. On men's garments, use linen thread when possible. Ruffles should be cut on the bias of the goods, matching the figure or stripe and pressing the seam on the wrong side. In this way it does not require as much material and the ruffles look much neater. Facing of all widths should be cut on the bias.

Do not pucker or gather a seam in sewing it, and take care to fasten your thread before you cut it, so that your work will not unravel. On these points altogether, the fil or hang of the garment depends. It injures the enamel of your teeth to bite the thread. Therefore you should not do it.

Darns and patches should always be pressed. Bear this in mind. You will see that oftentimes the mending is scarcely noticeable. Cultivate a pride in doing mending, which is really one of the important factors in your wardrobe. It is no disgrace to patch. Do not despise the means to the end. It does not pay.

The woman who is a practical worker in the field of good deeds never throws anything in the rag bag that can be mended or made over. She sees that they reach needy ones who have nothing so good, and she does not send them to the poor in rags, either. Every article is put in the best condition possible by care and patience. The record of her "Inasmuch" will be large and others can and should follow her example.

In mending with a patch, especially on boys' trousers, the piece should be large enough to cover all the thin part. It must be put on the wrong side of the garment. The edge of the patch should not be turned in, but cross stitched and care must be used not to catch the stitches through to the right side. Then turn on to the right side and if not much worn, darn down on to the patch and press on the wrong side. If it should be worn through badly cut out all the thin part, making a square hole, clip the corners a little, turn the edges in neatly, and hem all along, taking pains to have the corners square. The square hole makes a much neater piece of work than the round. Then press on the wrong side.

If towels or table linen show wear, darn even tiny holes with cotton floss or coarse thread. For darning purposes the cotton floss is preferable to linen. In all cases and at all times darn and mend, and mend it is saving money now. If a stitch in time is taken it is surprising how much longer sheets, pillow slips, towels and all wearing apparel will last. When darning weave the thread in and out as far as the thin spot extends, keeping the stitching or garment smooth over the darning. When the sewing machine runs hard, take kerosene and oil it thoroughly; remove the needle and run it as for sewing. Then with a cloth wipe carefully, removing all the oil and dust. Next oil with the machine oil in the ordinary way, wiping again every part. Before sewing your goods sew a few stitches on a strip of cloth to remove all oil that may have attached to the needle bar.

The smallest thin place should be darned as evenly as though it were embroidery. The evenness and regularity of a darn lend it dignity and elevate it to a work of art. Darning thin places, rather than mending holes, is true economy—a boon of thrift and materials.

The mending thread should be as near as possible in size to that of the material, since the darn will both look and wear better, and it is desirable to have the needle as fine as the thread or silk will carry. If the surrounding parts are thin or the tear jagged, a piece of thinner material should be neatly basted on the wrong side and hemmed down afterwards. Silk answers nicely on woolen goods. Use a heavy duty thread on the darning of healthy fabric. It will not pay for the trouble, as the least strain on a thin part makes it worse than it was before. With wool, darning should always be done before washing, as it can then be done more easily and neatly and the tear or thin place will spread no farther, whereas one laundering may tear it from end to end.

### The Dawn.

(By Susan Arden Wiles in The Independent.)  
Throw wide the casement—let the dawn-  
ing in—  
—way dawn that trembles in  
the East;  
Though yet the starry splendor hath not  
faded.

Nor night's low voices cease;  
Still, on the borders of the sleeping wood  
The shadows brood.

Dew-wet the vine upon my cottage wall  
With sudden thrills among its glossy  
leaves;  
A little bird chirps from its hidden nest  
Beneath the mossy eaves.  
Preen its brown wings upon a drooping  
vine spray,  
And lightly darts away.

Rose the dawn—the morning star hath  
paled;  
A silvery mist lifts from the distant  
meads;  
The tall laburnums by the garden wall  
Scatter their drops of gold;  
The grassy lawn, wet with the midnight's  
tears,  
A sparkling sea appears.

Lean from the casement, bathe your  
eyes in dew,  
Breathe in the fragrance of the spicy  
dawn.  
Drink the cool freshness of the summer  
dawn.  
As of life-giving wine,  
So, strengthened for the burden of the day,  
Go bravely on your way.  
Richmond, Va.

## IN THE KITCHEN.

### Nasturtium Pickle.

Nasturtium pickle is a pungent gift for the housekeeper, for Christmas or earlier, for the easy preparation of which few little hands are too small. Let a small bottle be neatly filled with good clear vinegar and salt "to taste," and the little boys from day to day, during summer and autumn, may gather the seeds

of nasturtium, and after careful picking over fill the bottles. These may then be sealed and labeled appropriately with the same color as the wax.

### Ham Toast.

Cut out rounds of whole wheat bread, removing a small piece from the center of each; dip these in melted butter and fill the cavities with finely minced ham

and celery moistened with a little cream sauce; sprinkle with a little paprika and bake fifteen minutes in a hot oven. Remove to a hot platter and dispose in the center of each slice a poached egg, garnishing the dish with a border of potato roses and tiny squares of fried hominy.

### Potato Custard.

Mix a generous teaspoon of butter well through a quart of hot mashed potato, then add alternately four cups of sugar and four eggs. Beat smooth, grate in the yellow peel of four lemons, add their strained juice and a teaspoon of grated nutmeg. Bermuda or white yarn will require an extra cup of sugar—indeed, it is well to keep always in mind what has been said of the difficulty of making sweet potato things sweet. After the lemon juice is well incorporated, add enough rich milk to make the mixture pour easily—definite proportions cannot be given, as some potatoes are so much more watery than others. Bake in pans lined with puff paste, in a quick steady oven. Where meringues are in favor, use six eggs, keeping out the whites for meringue, and adding a little more milk.

## IN THE SEWING-ROOM.

So very severe are the tailor costumes this autumn that they must needs be softened and relieved in some way which simple lines are not becoming. A fur coat or stole always gives the desired finish to even the plainest jacket, but for the present there can be no thought of donning fur of any kind, so that a full puff of tulle, silk or chiffon will answer the same purpose and be equally becoming.

Almost as large as the historical Elizabethan ruff are the wide stiff ruffings of plaited net which to-day are accepted as one of the smartest styles of neck ruffings. This ruffing, of course, is most frequently seen already made up, finished with long tie ends of looped and knotted ribbon or chiffon, but plaited net can just as well be bought by the yard the length desired, and even with the cost of the many yards of narrow ribbon

for the streamers the economical woman can save quite a little in making up her own bon. The ruffing should be just long enough to go about the neck, meeting in front only when tied together. These streamers may be any where from a yard to a yard and a half in length, narrow velvet ribbon being the most used, although black satin and tulle are also seen.

For the tailor-made suit, plaited skirts are every bit as fashionable as ever, and numerous are the new and old plaited models, but now almost as popular is the new sored skirt. A gored skirt, to answer fashion's present demands, should have anywhere from eight to eighteen gores, so that, while it fits snugly about the hips, it will have considerable flare at the feet. Plain, round skirts are seen this year once at the hem with these as well. The plain skirts are most frequently worn with very long coats, which would not hang well over too full a skirt. For a plaited skirt an attractive model was laid entirely in narrow bon in plaits, about an inch and a half in width, stitched down and fitted closely for some six or eight inches from the belt, and from there open and having an exceedingly pretty fullness. For all cloth skirts, the narrow stitched belt of the material is once more worn. This belt may be anywhere from one to three inches in width, but if wider, all should have a thin bone in back to keep it in place. Plaited silk girdles are still seen, but are not as wide as formerly.

Most, if not all, of the late Parisian house models display a fastening in the back. The sleeves are the greatest point of departure in the later styles, for with the exception of the change in the side seam, both in location and shape, the body part of the blouse maintains pretty nearly the same line as characterized those of the summer-time.

The fascinating half-sleeve will, when cleverly modelled, lend an air of dressiness to even the plainest blouse, and a wise precaution is it that fashions under sleeves that may readily be pinned to should occasion demand the full length sleeve. Those dainty little accessories need not necessarily match the blouse in material, trimming or construction; and here is a chance to utilize all sorts of odds and ends of lawn, lace, embroidery and such to the most telling effect. The tops of those undersleeves are made with a little feather-bone cording run in the hem, this serving to hold the undersleeve well to the shape of the upper, and making it far more facile for the wearer.

The collars bring along an innovation in the way that they are built up high and close to the throat. Some of them have the most fascinating little upstanding tabs, well feather-boned, in the back, while others there are that take that smart and eminently becoming upward curve under the ear. A narrow cravat of velvet ribbon frequently is seen fast to the blouse in conjunction with those new collars, and when a touch of color contrast is introduced in this way there is a tiny bias edge of the same at the collar top.

### A Song-Lesson.

All day long thou singest to me,  
Thou precious prince of song;  
And all day long I list to thee,  
Thou summer's day bright and long.  
By shady paths, where thy notes  
Echo the upland harp them ring—  
Oh, capture mine, when thy music floats,  
Thro' my soul! Sing, sweet mock-bird,  
Sing!

Mock all the ranging notes, blest bird,  
Of the joyous feathered tribes;  
Teach man, vaunter of wisdom's word,  
The lesson deep thy fluttering scribbles—  
I hear it in thy wood-notes say—  
Wouldst learn I, too, oh, pinna  
brother

If I cannot sing thine own sweet lay,  
Go, minstrel, sing the song of another.  
ROBT. BARKHOLDER.

### Mutation.

Till comes the crescent Moon,  
We worship each a Star;  
But in the reign of Noon,  
The lesser and the larger fall.  
The lesser and the larger light,  
That ruled the destinies of Night.

Anon, the darkness near,  
Within their dim domain  
To Memory appeal,  
Till the twilight gods again;  
And Reverence beneath their sway  
Foretells the sovereignty of Day.  
—John B. Tabb, in the October Atlantic



### SUIT IN REDINGOTE STYLE.

One of the most modish ideas in long coats for cloth suits is the redingote. Almost perfect reproductions of the old-fashioned redingote are brought forth now as the newest fancy. This is simply a bold assertion of the masculine source from which many of the feminine fashions are turned. A typical model suit is developed in green. The sleeves are full length with a small cuff showing some of the embroidered velvet. At the elbow is a gauntlet cuff trimming which simulates the short sleeve. With this coat is a circular skirt showing the braided trimming in panel design down the front and around the skirt, apparently heading a flounce.



### To Wash

Fine linen the best washing soaps should be used. Soaps full of alkali discolor linen. It is better to wring linen by hand, or at least have the roller of the wringer fairly loose. The rinsing process must be thorough. A great improvement in doing up linen is this stock: Dissolve one ounce of gum arabic in half a pint of warm water; add one tablespoonful of the solution to a quart of water and wring out the linen in the mixture. A razor should never be wiped on a linen towel. At the time the damage done may not be apparent, but looms up appallingly after the towel is washed.

### Charcoal

Is one of the greatest purifiers of water. Let one have a water, or any substance, allowed to percolate through it will be freed of all animal organisms or foreign particles. It is one of the best sweeteners of the breath. After a hearty meal it is a splendid thing for the stomach. If added to it is a little ginger. It is excellent with which to cleanse the teeth, for it removes fungus growth, that many tooth powders fail to touch. It relieves pain caused by a burn.

### For Brilliant Windows

Take a pad of cotton rag, soaked in glycerine, and rub the glass all over inside. Then take a piece of clean, dry rag and lightly polish the glass until the glycerine is invisible, but not entirely rubbed away. Do this when the glass is fairly warm and dry, and you will get brilliant windows, no condensation and a great saving in the amount of cleaning.

Every laundry should have in its furnishing a pair of curtain stretchers, for there is nothing that the housekeeper does of more service and nothing that she needs more regularly and constantly.

When the curtains require to be washed, let them soak for a while in warm water softened with ammonia, after they have been well soaped. Then wash them until they are clean, and then remove, taking them last through a thin starch water, and pressing them dry. Have the stretchers placed on supports and graduated to the length of the curtain strips. Place the stretchers by an open window, where the sun comes in, and adjust the first strip, so that it will be held smoothly and firmly in place. After the first strip is put in place, it is easy to add several others, as three or four thicknesses will dry in the stretchers.

When the curtains have "hardened" sufficiently, take out the strips, one by one, placing them on the ironing board with a thick, soft blanket underneath, and

and pressing them with a hot smooth iron, to bring out the pattern well. In this way each housekeeper may have her curtains satisfactorily kept in order, at the saving of a considerable expense and at the cost of very little trouble.

## ...In the Dining-Room...

### A Good Cup of Tea.

Nine out of ten women have yet to learn how to make a good cup of tea. English women understand the art of tea-making to perfection, and it would be well if American housewives would take a lesson from them.

These three rules are essential, and if followed to the letter the result will prove satisfactory.

Keep tea in a well covered canister. Make tea in an earthen pot. Remember the adage, "Unless the teakettle boiling be, filling the teapot spoils the tea."

Never let tea boil.

### Hallowe'en Sentiments.

Some merry, friendly country folks Together did convene,  
To burn their nits and pou their stocks,  
An' haud their Hallowe'en.  
—Burns's Hallowe'en.

This night is Hallowe'en, Janet,  
The morn is Hallowday.  
—The Young Tamplaine.  
(Child's Ballad.)

### Ye Apple Charms.

Pare an apple. Swing the unbroken paring three times round your head slowly, drop it back of you. Turn and give the initial of the man whom you will wed.

Eat an apple, saving the seeds. Count the seeds to this old rhyme: "One I love, Two I love, Three I love, I say; Four I love with all my heart; Five I cast away; Six he loves, Seven she loves, Eight they both love, Nine he comes, Ten he tarries, Eleven he courts, Twelve he marries." Stick an apple seed on each eyelid, naming them two different names. The name which sticks on longest is that of the lucky fellow.

Put an apple before a mirror at midnight, holding up a candle, and your

future husband will come and look over your left shoulder.

Suspend apples by strings in doorway or from ceiling. Tie the hands of the young men behind them, and let them try to eat the apples. The man who succeeds first has the privilege of kissing any girl he chooses.

Place apples in tubs of water, tie the hands behind the boys and girls. Let each bob for apples, the two succeeding first will marry each other. Another way is to mark initials on the apples and the one marked is the one whom you will marry.

### Ye Magic Cake.

Into a cake place a ring, a thimble, a penny and a key. Holding the cake aloft, make a procession through the rooms three times round, no one uttering a sound. Cut out the cake in silence. The one who draws the ring will marry, the penny will go to the one who will be wealthy, the thimble will indicate the spinster, and the key the traveler.

### Ye Molten Lead.

Hold in one hand a door key. With the other hand pour melted lead from an iron spoon through the handle of the key into cold water. The lead will take strange shapes, indicating the profession of the girl's future husband. A plough is for a farmer, a book for a professional man, a ship for the navy.

### Ye Dumb Cake.

Seven girls make the dumb cake, uttering not a word while it is being made. No man may appear on the scene during the process. It is made of flour and water, mixed to a stiff dough and placed in a pan. On top of the cake each girl pricks her initials and those of her sweetheart. The cake is baked ten minutes, no one being allowed to speak. When the cake is baked, the initials plainly seen are those who will marry hereafter this year. If the door opens and a man enters, the girl on whom his eye falls first will be married first.